

# New York Tribune

First to Last—the Truth: News—Editorials—Advertisements

Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations.

TUESDAY, JULY 31, 1917

Owned and published daily by The Tribune Association, a New York Corporation. Office: 110 N. Wall St., New York City. Editor: J. M. McKim. President: J. M. McKim. Secretary: J. M. McKim. Treasurer: J. M. McKim. Address: Tribune Building, 150 Nassau Street, New York. Telephone: Bookman 3400.

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES:**—By Mail, Postage Paid, outside of Greater New York. Daily and Sunday, 1 year, \$10.00. Daily only, 6 months, \$5.00. Sunday only, 6 months, \$3.00. Daily and Sunday, 3 months, \$2.50. Daily only, 3 months, \$1.50. Sunday only, 3 months, \$1.00. Daily and Sunday, 1 month, \$1.00. Daily only, 1 month, \$0.50. Sunday only, 1 month, \$0.30.

**FOREIGN RATES:**—Daily and Sunday, 1 year, \$15.00. Daily only, 6 months, \$8.00. Sunday only, 6 months, \$4.00. Daily and Sunday, 3 months, \$4.00. Daily only, 3 months, \$2.00. Sunday only, 3 months, \$1.00. Daily and Sunday, 1 month, \$1.00. Daily only, 1 month, \$0.50. Sunday only, 1 month, \$0.30.

Entered at the Postoffice at New York as Second Class Mail Matter.

You can purchase merchandise advertised in THE TRIBUNE with absolute safety—for if dissatisfaction results in any case THE TRIBUNE guarantees to pay your money back upon request. No red tape. No quibbling. We make good promptly if the advertiser does not.

## Another German "Discovery"

Before being impressed by this new German "discovery" of French ambitions, it is worth while to recall the earlier "discovery" of the Germans in Brussels. No one can fail to recall that here faithful, credible German officers—as credible as any German—found proof which convinced all Germany that Belgium had long been plotting to attack the German Empire, and that the German invasion in fact only forestalled the Belgian conspiracy.

It is worth while recalling also that certain German papers have "discovered" that the reason that the United States is at war with Germany is to be found in the fact that the President's son-in-law, Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo, is under the control of the wicked, Anglophile Morgans. To recall these two interesting German "discoveries" is to get a sense of values in dealing with the newest German find.

Turning now to this German allegation, which curiously enough sees the light of day alongside declarations in many German papers that only the feeble-minded imagine that the Germans will ever give up Belgium, what is the probable substance of it?

The German statement confidently mentions the name of Saarbrücken and vaguely adds other vast territorial modifications on the left bank of the Rhine. What it seems to refer to is the coal region which is northeast of the old frontier of Alsace-Lorraine as it existed before the war of 1870. Apparently the Germans think they have unearthed a French plot to annex some of their territory north of the Saar River.

The history of this territory is simple. In the eighteenth century Lorraine passed to the French Crown, not by war or by conquest, but by the death of the King of Poland and in accordance with previous agreements. Lorraine, as it then existed, included a very considerable portion of the territory northeast of the Saar River which is now German territory. In this region and within the frontiers of Lorraine were very considerable coal deposits. At the close of the Napoleonic wars, after France had been conquered, Prussia marked out and took as part of her own prize these coal districts. In the first Congress of Vienna, which preceded the return of Napoleon from Elba, Prussia was satisfied with the boundary of the Saar River, but at the second Congress Prussian appetite increased and a number of towns south of the river, including Saarbrücken, were taken. Thus in 1815 Prussia took from France her most considerable and valuable coal fields.

In 1871, in the Treaty of Frankfurt, Germany extended her conquest to include all the iron regions of Lorraine then discovered. After the Congress of Vienna and the Treaty of Frankfurt, therefore, the Germans quite believed that they had deprived France of her greatest coal-producing districts and her richest iron regions. The fact that valuable deposits of iron were subsequently found within French territory has always rankled in the German mind, and the determination of Germany to annex the Briey district has been frequently set forth in all sorts of German publications and by all sorts of Germans.

We may very well leave it to the French to exclaim what the facts of the situation are as to their purposes and war aims, but it is worth recalling that the district which the Germans now allege that the French wickedly, corruptly and imperialistically seek to annex is the coal district stolen from France after Napoleon had been defeated in 1815.

This German manoeuvre should deceive nobody. It is certain that there will be any number of similar efforts to impress upon the Russian and the American peoples the idea that this is only a war of conquest on the part of all nations that are fighting, and that the sole obstacle to peace is the appetite of the nations which are fighting Germany. No American can be deceived and no Russian should be.

test of German desire for peace remains German purpose as to Belgium. The reiteration on the part of German newspapers of a determination to hold Belgium is an all-sufficient reason why the war should go on and why it will go on.

The Germans attacked France, as they did Belgium, without any warrant and without having received any injury. Their effort to convict Belgium of having plotted German ruin is now logically followed by a similar charge against the French. The allegation against our French friends will carry just about as much weight as did the German allegation against Belgium. It may or it may not be true that the French, now that their own coal regions have been wantonly wrecked by Germany in the Lens district, have determined to take back a portion of the coal district wrongfully torn from them by the Treaty of 1815. But this is a question which does not arise so long as Germany maintains her right to annex Belgium, to make Russian Poland into a subject kingdom and to deny liberty to the Serbians. When Germany has announced her policy with respect to these questions, and when this policy conforms unmistakably and inescapably with the demands of civilization, right and justice, then it will be time to discuss the crimes and purposes of Germany's foes. Just now there is something incredibly ludicrous in the German wolf disclosed in the attitude of accusing the lambs he has plundered and wounded of wicked conspiracies against him.

## Mr. Mitchell Accepts

In accepting the nomination offered to him by the Committee of Two Hundred and Fifty Mayor Mitchell lays emphasis on the fact that he has been drafted to run. It has long been an open secret that he preferred for many reasons to retire from public life. But like a good citizen he has sacrificed his personal wishes and interests at the call of duty.

The Fusion movement will undoubtedly be stronger this year with him at the head of the ticket. And this is a critical year. One more decisive defeat will nearly finish Tammany, whose machinery has been creaking and whose prestige as a political organization with an invincible knack of coming back has been rudely shattered. Tammany is no longer a name with which to rally the predatory classes or to intimidate weak-kneed respectability. The interests with axes to grind no longer go hat in hand to Fourteenth Street. Nor are humble and well-intentioned citizens any longer oppressed with the thought that it may be dangerous for them to show their sympathy with anti-Tammany ideals of government.

Now is the time to slay the legend which has for so many years kept Tammany going—a legend based on the belief that Tammany fitted naturally into the local scheme of things, that it was a typical Manhattan growth, that Tammany was good enough for New York and that New York was simply putting on airs when it pretended to be too good for Tammany. When we explode that superstition by slaughtering the Tiger we shall have gone far on the road toward our deliverance from the old Fourteenth Street-Thomas C. Platt-Allen Corner School of Politics.

Up to now no anti-Tammany administration has been able to succeed itself. There has always been a reaction. We had the Strong administration and then lapsed back to Van Wyck. We had Seth Low in office for one term. Then came McClellan and Gaynor. They both owed office to Tammany, but in the end set up mildly for themselves. Mr. Mitchell was elected four years ago by a phenomenal plurality. It is desirable above all things that the great Fusion victory of 1913 should now be repeated. Let us rid ourselves completely of the notion that when the city is sick of rottenness it craves for reform, and when it is well it goes back again to Tammanyism.

Mayor Mitchell will stand for reflection on his record. It is an admirable record. Only those who have lived in New York through many earlier régimes can appreciate it at full value. No reasonable person will deny that our city administration for the last four years has risen to a level of intelligence and efficiency never before attained. That is almost a commonplace, yet only citizens with memories realize how great the advance has been—compared with the administrations of Gaynor and McClellan—to say nothing of the malodorous Van Wyck.

We have seen the idea of civic obligation instilled into the personnel of the city government. The motto of the Mitchell administration has been "The City First." Its ambition has been to give the taxpayers the best possible return for their money through service rendered. All the departments have caught something of the new spirit, and if in the one where the hold of the old ideas is strongest—in the Police Department—there are to-day evidences of Tammanyism, that is only because some elements in that department still cherish fond recollections of the days of Devereux, whom Van Wyck glorified as "the best Chief of Police New York City ever had."

Mr. Mitchell does not claim that he has made no mistakes. It would be foolish to put forth such a claim. But the point is that he has had the intelligence to profit from his mistakes. He promises to avoid the errors he has made and to continue the civic progress for which his four-year term has been so notable. That is a candid programme, worthy of a man who has never failed to broaden in office and who has always sought to apply the knowledge he has been gaining in public service to honorable public ends.

and partisan resentment, to appreciate the great growth in popular esteem which those four years represent for the Mayor. He is the logical Fusion candidate this year because he has "made good"—because the community feels that his retirement from the mayoralty would be a public loss. That is an asset enormously in his favor. Where is Tammany Hall, even in the throes of another acute attack of civic virtue, going to find a candidate who can measure up to the Mayor in qualifications? The city knows what Mr. Mitchell can do and what he stands for. Why should it discard him and take chances on another of Mr. Murphy's stalking horses?

## A Damper on the Irish Volunteers

The "atmosphere" so thoughtfully provided by the British government to promote the growth of goodwill in Ireland has apparently proved too bracing, and Sir Bryan Mahon has published an order putting a stop at last to the wearing of unauthorized military uniforms and the carrying of arms, except for lawful purposes.

There will doubtless be a great howl (especially from the counterfeit Irish in this country) at this latest example of British oppression, but really it is impossible to consider recent events in Ireland without wondering that the dangerous fooleries of the rebellious element have been endured for so long in the middle of a great war.

The government had the choice of two courses—either to wink at the activities of the mischief makers or to suppress them. In either case censure or abuse was the inevitable reward, and the government chose to be lenient and let out all the prisoners taken in the insurrection last year. It was thought that this generous course would be approved in Ireland; that it would, as it was explained, create a favorable "atmosphere of settlement."

The results were quite contrary to what was expected. The rabble took the act of clemency as a confession of weakness, and were encouraged to do so by many of the released prisoners. Thus, one who had been sentenced to death for murder and pardoned with the rest had hardly reached his native county when he began to brag noisily before an adoring crowd of how he and his fellows had forced the hand of the government. "I have been in prison," said this hero. "Why were we let out so soon? Not alone did we fight outside, but we also fought inside, and three weeks ago we wrecked an English jail, and if they did not let us out we would come out ourselves."

The same truculent air was put on by most of the others. The police were stoned, recruiting stations were attacked, flags of the Allies torn down and trampled on and an attempt was made to break into a jail in Cork. The Sinn Féin leaders protested but weakly, pretending to think these wild demonstrations had been "fomented to discredit the national organizations," and at the same time sedulously encouraged the disorderly element with wild promises.

Thus Mr. de Valera told the people of Killybegs that the British Empire was at a great crisis, and it would not be impossible that during that crisis a favorable opportunity would arise which would enable the Irish people to win their freedom and secure for Ireland complete independence, free from foreign control. Another released prisoner went further, spoke glowingly of the good work done by Germany and promised his audience "that the Central Powers would win the war and that this would be right for Ireland."

With all this in mind, is it any wonder that at last the Irish are to be treated, in one respect at least, as harshly as the people of England, Wales and Scotland? There will be whining, of course, but there must be a limit to the indulgence shown to rebels, even Irish rebels.

## Smokes for Sammy

"My kingdom for a good old home-grown smoke!" groans the United States trooper in France, quite properly. He can drink French drinks and flirt French flirtations, but smoke French smokes he cannot. At sight of the tall red cigar outside the tobacconist's he cowers in a state of profound mental depression, and there are Frenchmen who feel the same way. It is not French taste that makes French smoke so devilish. It is the French government. For in France the government runs the tobacco business and in that way levies "contributions indirect." The viler the tobacco the bigger the profit.

France has other government monopolies. If you carry a pail of water away from the ocean, some official holds you up and reminds you that the French government monopolizes the salt business. When not one match in five will ignite it is because the Third Republic monopolizes the match business. Such monopolies prevent tax dodging. They gather in the very last copper they set out to. But when they deprave smoke it is a dark day indeed for François and for Sammy.

A cheap cigar smells to heaven. Ready-made cigarettes cost a fortune. Tabac (pronounced "tabah") looks like hair, feels like hay and tastes like a bonfire. In time one gets educated down to tabac. If the war lasts twelve years Sammy will roll his cigarette without blinking and fill his pipe (pronounced "peep") without a shudder. During the first nine or ten years, however, he will cry, "If this be smoke, give me gas!"

## The Greedy Fish Handlers

(Givard, in The Philadelphia Ledger) Mr. Hoover says we must eat lots of fish. More of us would oblige Mr. Hoover if some of the middlemen who handle the fish would have a heart.

Of course, the middlemen who bring their wares from Cape May or Angelenas can give the express charges and the cost of ice as their excuse for charging 16 to 18 cents a pound for sea bass in Philadelphia.

But how about the fellows who go out into the deep to get them? They, too, have the rising price of coal and the increasing wages of helpers to consider. Yet they put the fish on the wharf beside the cars by the barrel for 7 cents a pound!

## The German Hero's Mark

(From The London Daily Telegraph) So far, 49,600 Iron Crosses of the First Class and 2,600,000 of the Second Class have been awarded to Germans.

## Post-War Military Policy

A True Federal Army Should Be Created, Based on Conscription

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: In the midst of the nation's preparations for war a highly important phase of its military policy seems to have been entirely lost sight of—at least, for the time being. I refer to the military policy of the United States after peace shall have been declared and our troops shall have returned from Europe and shall have been mustered out of Federal service.

I have noticed in the papers that discussion in Washington often refers to the return of the National Guard to state status by special legislation after the war, and it seems to me that no time could be more opportune than the present for the truly American and forward-looking press of our land—of which The New York Tribune is so conspicuous an example—to take up immediately the question of our country's adopting a safe and sane military policy, which will include universal manhood service and the maintenance of our army at a peace strength at all times of not less than 750,000, which army shall be entirely under Federal control and with no state connection whatever. The inestimable good to be derived by our manhood from military or naval training, morally, mentally, physically and spiritually, will not be realized by the country until such a system of training has been in operation for a time. However, there can be no doubt as to its results, if properly handled.

Having made a start in the right direction—due to the necessities of the war in which we are now engaged—it would be a fatal mistake to allow this opportunity to pass for adopting a military policy by this country which is adequate and commensurate with its standing as a world power, and it seems to me that the sooner this matter is brought to the attention of the country at large the more sure will be the accomplishment of this object when the time shall arrive. To restore our military establishment to its pre-war footing of a volunteer professional regular army and the ineffective state control National Guard system would completely nullify the good start that we have made in our National Army.

On the other hand, the military education that we are about to receive through actual experience ought to render the establishment of our military system on a proper military basis a comparatively easy task, if the foundation is laid immediately and the building of this establishment wisely and constructively guided.

JOHN R. METCALF.

Erie, Penn., July 27, 1917.

## A Parallel

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: One hundred and five years ago all Europe, except England and Russia, was under the heel of the first Napoleon. He seemed at the height of his power and was planning for a Bonaparte dynasty.

He proposed to reduce England by starvation, by preventing her imports of food. He gathered a vast army and expected to conquer Russia and complete his dominion. They set out early in June and entered Moscow, then the capital of Russia, about September 1, in triumph. The army had been powerless to resist them, but their troubles had hardly begun.

Within a few days Moscow was set on fire, most of the city was destroyed and Napoleon with his forces was without shelter or food at the beginning of a severe winter. The story of that retreat has been often told. Harassed on every side by the infuriated people, ill clothed and unprotected from the elements, fording icy streams whose bridges had been destroyed, each man seeking to save himself, the wreck of that great force straggled toward home. It was the beginning of the downfall of Bonaparte.

Except that the forces aligned against Germany are vastly greater than those were, is there not some similarity with the present situation, and is there any reason for the somewhat hopeless tone in which some writers have recently indulged?

Incidentally it was a peaceful and comparatively unarmed and unprepared people who wrecked Napoleon's designs and at proportionally little cost or loss to themselves.

H. H. SWIFT.

New York, July 28, 1917.

## What "Some Officials" Imagine

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: The average newspaper man seems unable to state anything with digits in the billion column without being entirely run away with. To-day we have The Tribune's ponderous assertion that the German U-boats are sinking three billion dollars worth a month of ships and cargoes. As the Germans do not claim to sink more than 120 big ships a month, The Tribune's mathematics would allow a value of twenty-five million dollars to each ship and cargo. The Tribune divides this allotment equally between ship and cargo, and is as little disturbed by six-thousand-ton cargo ships at twelve millions and a half each as by their six thousand tons of freight at two thousand dollars a ton!

New York, July 28, 1917. M. WHITE.

[The average newspaper reader seems unable to distinguish between opinions quoted in newspapers and assertions made by them.—Ed.]

## Hurry Up!

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: It is possible that some of our Representatives in Congress are playing politics, irrespective of the welfare of the nation? It seems to me that all mothers and fathers who have sons eligible for war service should write urgent letters to their Representatives to pass war measures as soon as possible to prevent an unnecessary slaughter of sons who are now among the recruits or will be a little later on.

Every hour of delay in passing the necessary war measures means greater privation, greater sorrow and greater sacrifice for the people of our country. For one I appreciate the patriotic stand your widely read paper is taking in this awful European war.

J. T. KINGSBURY.

New York, July 27, 1917.

## A Use for Idle Warships

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: In the present need of transatlantic freight carriers why not use the one hundred or more English and United States battleships lying idle and rusting at their piers to help transport freight, in conjunction with the merchant marine? They are not built for this purpose, of course, but if the "nooks and corners" in a battleship were filled with cargo, and it went along with two or three merchant ships to convey them, the risk to the merchant ships would be much less and the cargo capacity of the flotilla much greater.

F. R. S.

Rhinebeck, N. Y., July 28, 1917.

## "A Time for Courage"

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Allow me to congratulate you on your very logical and optimistic editorial in this morning's Tribune.

I agree with you that the really patriotic way is to be optimistic throughout the duration of this war.

In my mind I can conceive no idea but the one of the predominance of "Right!"

ROSALEND A. WADE.

New York, July 28, 1917.

## The Crisis in Spain

By Dr. L. Pardo

The advertised revolution in Spain, which, according to dispatches from Paris and London, was a matter of hours, has obdurately refused to materialize. It is a fact, however, that the public and the newspapers in Great Britain and France believed—and still believe—that a revolution in Spain is imminent, that King Alfonso is sitting on a volcano and that unless he joins the Entente in the war he will lose his throne and will have to join the former King Constantine "somewhere" in Switzerland.

Such belief is based on two facts. One, the lack of news from Spain in Paris and London. For several days during the recent troubles in Barcelona, no news, in fact, made matters look very bad for the Spanish government. For a while, not a word was printed in the French and British papers and wild rumors were spread. It was generally believed that the Spanish censorship was responsible for the lack of telegraphic news. But it is a queer thing that at that time the papers in Argentina, Chile, Brazil and Cuba printed their regular cable news from Spain and the public south of the United States was accurately informed of the situation. The other fact on which the forecast was based was the presence of well-known international agitators in Spain, especially in Barcelona.

The revolutionary movement, if there was one, has failed so far. This does not mean, however, that the situation in Spain is not hazardous and full of dangers. It is true that just before the troubles at Barcelona took the lead in the Spanish situation it looked as if the country was on the verge of being swallowed by the European turmoil. It was a few weeks ago. While the majority of the country favored neutrality, nearly all the leaders of the political parties had boldly and strongly taken their positions in favor of Germany or the Allies. The pro-Germans were losing ground steadily, owing to the submarine campaign. Then a big meeting was called, to be held at the large bullring in Madrid. The leaders of the different parties were expected to express their stand on the question of Spanish neutrality. The speech Antonio Maura was expected to deliver drew a crowd of over twenty thousand people to the big arena. Maura, notwithstanding his past mistakes, which excluded him from the Spanish government for nearly a decade, is still considered the strongest, the most honest, fearless and straightforward politician in Spain. As outspoken as Roosevelt is, he has also, in common with the American leader, that subtle and highly developed instinct that permits him to anticipate the direction in which the wind of public opinion blows, and in which which psychologists consider an indispensable requirement for a successful politician.

## Maura's Great Speech

Maura spoke at the bullring. A brilliant speaker he is, and his address is still being commented on and praised as the best effort in his long public life. He had so far not committed himself on the matter of Spanish neutrality. He had everybody guessing, and for nearly a fortnight people all over Spain asked each other, "What is Maura going to tell?" He spoke and yet took no position either on the side of Germany or the Allies. It is true, he admitted, Spain had large economic interests in common with France and Great Britain. He told the pro-Germans frankly that the country could not, without seriously endangering its own life, take up arms against the Entente. He also told those who urged the country to join the Entente that Spain had received no special marks of friendship from the Allied powers. There were, he said, two questions between Spain and France and England which had never been solved satisfactorily—Gibraltar and Morocco. But he added immediately that it was neither right nor fair for Spain to take advantage of the present situation to make economic interests in common with France and Great Britain. Spain could not join the Allies as a squire for the Entente powers. "If Spain did that," he exclaimed, "I would cease to be a Spaniard."

If, at any time, the effort of man has been decisive in influencing public opinion, this was the case. In fact, since Maura delivered his remarkable speech the question of Spanish neutrality has been settled, at least for a long time to come. It was his speech that permitted the Premier, Eduardo Dato, to stick to the policy of neutrality without being furiously attacked by the pro-Allied press, and he has been able to rule without either calling or dissolving Parliament since that time.

Let us be more remote. The internal danger, however, is on the increase. Spain is in what may be called a "pre-revolutionary" condition, not on account of the international matters, but on account of a most complicated political and economic situation.

## Spain's Commercial Losses

A serious economic unrest, caused by the disturbed conditions created by the war, exists all over the country. Spain has lost about 10 per cent of her shipping and a large proportion of her export trade. Fruit growers, who had a profitable market in Hamburg and London, have seen their fruits rot on the trees because Hamburg is closed and England is at war.

Regionalism, the military question and the economic problems are the rocks on which the Dato Cabinet may be wrecked. Neutrality has passed to the second place for the time being and will not by itself embarrass the government. It may be revived in the future, but even the most ardent interventionists are not very earnest in their belief that Spanish help will win the war for the Allies. Spanish intervention would hardly affect the course of the war.

The Dato Cabinet is not a popular one; it is not by itself a strong one. It may last, however, simply because all radical elements in Spain realize that after the failure of the Liberal cabinets, if a new crisis arises the King virtually will be compelled to call Maura, his bitterest and most irreconcilable foe.

## Russia's Breakdown

Not a Misfortune by Any Means for the Allied Cause

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Every one seems to take a very pessimistic view of the collapse of Russia. It does not seem as if this gloom is altogether justified. In the first place, I believe the United States has been relieved of a great burden which would have grown in weight as time went on. We have been loaning money and selling supplies to the Czar and his entourage and we can now see very plainly that the efforts were all practically wasted. Russia never has been anything more than a geographical expression, and Germany in loading herself down with such burdens as Austria and Russia, in addition to the hatred of the entire remainder of mankind, is making herself hopelessly weak.

When the Kaiser tries to carry out the policy of slaughtering helpless women and children all over European and Asiatic Russia the edge of the sword that he needs to fight England, France and America will have grown very dull. It required a huge standing army under the Czar to keep any kind of peace in the empire, and it will take an even larger force of Germans. With Moscow, Petrograd and Odessa in the hands of Germany and the whole interior in a constant state of revolt, where are the men to be found to meet the armies crossing the seas from this country?

It must be remembered that it is possible for our forces to cross either the Atlantic or the Pacific. If we joined Japan in helping the English army march from Bagdad to Constantinople, we should be rendering fully as great service to the common cause as if we had defeated the submarines and were pouring troops into France.

R. S. H.

South Jacksonville, Fla., July 27, 1917.

has curtailed all importations. Castellon, which before the war was one of the most prosperous sections, has been ruined, and fruit growers who heretofore made a comfortable living have been compelled to apply to the government for financial aid—even in the form of charity.

In the midst of these disturbed conditions the military element has taken a strong stand in defense of its privileges. The military question threatened to be very serious, for which the Garcia Prieto Cabinet is to blame. For a long time the officers of the army had organized boards of defense for the purpose of promoting the welfare and progress of their members and to urge the government to undertake the reorganization and improvement of the army. Such boards had been organized with government approval. The infantry decided to follow the lead of the other branches and establish their board with offices in Barcelona, a city which was for a long time the nest of all radical movements in Spain. The government became suspicious, and under the advice of the military governor the dissolution of the board was ordered, but was not carried out. The government then placed the members of the board under arrest, and the officers sent a vigorous protest against what they considered a discrimination and a violation of their rights.

## The Dato Ministry Yields

This was the real and direct cause of the last Cabinet crisis. The Dato government appeased the military. The public is still wondering whether the action of the infantry officers was due simply to syndicalist influence spreading from the labor element to the bureaucracy, of which the army is one of the most powerful branches, or if it was a political move intended to place a group more favorable to the army in the government, or if, as some papers hinted, a warning given by the government that the army was to be taken into account in the elaboration of an international program.

Whatever the motives, the officers created a state of intense apprehension and distrust. The Board of Defense realized that the effects of the protest were liable to go further than desired, and issued an explanatory statement repudiating any ulterior motives and declaring that until the board submitted its plans for the reorganization of the army any statement about their demands was premature.

The alarm, however, spread, and the Socialists of Barcelona, who saw in the attitude of the officers a menace to the community, met hurriedly and issued a statement declaring:

First—That there was in the military question a political and social aspect which it was necessary to investigate.

Second—That for the mismanagement and disorganization of the army the military element was to be blamed, since it had been duly represented in every Cabinet.

Third—That in view of the seditious attitude of the army, the people at large should prepare to defend the supremacy of the civil power.

Fourth—That the responsibility for the present conditions belonged, not only to the recent government, but to every government under the monarchy, and, therefore, to the monarchical régime.

Fifth—That the Socialists should protest against certain reactionary measures, and against the possibility of Maura and his reactionary group being put in charge of the government.

The Republicans, on their part, blamed the monarchical régime for all the troubles and boldly declared that no change in the Cabinet would solve the question. It was necessary to change entirely the political system.

## Barcelona and Regionalism

Barcelona and the whole Province of Catalonia has been longing for autonomy as long as Ireland has. It is probably the most progressive, the best developed and most cultured section of Spain, and its people refuse to be ruled by governors and military commanders sent from Madrid without allowing the Catalonians to solve their own problems. The aspiration, because it has been vigorously repressed, has spread to other provinces, especially in the North and Northwest, giving birth to a new political idea—regionalism—of which the Catalonians are the most vigorous defenders. No wonder they have taken advantage of the present situation. It is under such conditions, when the central government loses strength and its attention is divided by many difficult matters, that any movement toward liberty and political progress takes momentum.

Regionalism, the military question and the economic problems are the rocks on which the Dato Cabinet may be wrecked. Neutrality has passed to the second place for the time being and will not by itself embarrass the government. It may be revived in the future, but even the most ardent interventionists are not very earnest in their belief that Spanish help will win the war for the Allies. Spanish intervention would hardly affect the course of the war.

The Dato Cabinet is not a popular one; it is not by itself a strong one. It may last, however, simply because all radical elements in Spain realize that after the failure of the Liberal cabinets, if a new crisis arises the King virtually will be compelled to call Maura, his bitterest and most irreconcilable foe.

## Giving the Enemy Comfort

The Effect of Foolish Exaggerations of German Strength

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Freedom of the press in time of war must be determined by the good of the country as a whole, rather than by the desires of certain editors who, in fine sentences and subtle innuendoes, may be fomenting sedition and discouragement in the minds of millions of readers and so give aid and comfort to our enemy.

Of such a sort, it seems to me, is the editorial in "The American" of July 27, wherein we read that "the Franco-British offensive has failed with frightful slaughter, and without any gain of the least military importance," and "so slaughtered and demoralized there is no possible chance that they can make another attack upon the German lines, and would be hard put to it from this on to hold their own against Hindenburg's counter-offensive."

And, beside all this, "The American" goes on to state that "the German armies were never so numerous, supplies of food and munitions never greater." Also, that Germany has 4,200,000 reserves in the training camps who had yet to hear the first shot fired. And so on to the conclusion that America had better "cast about for means to bring the war to an end."